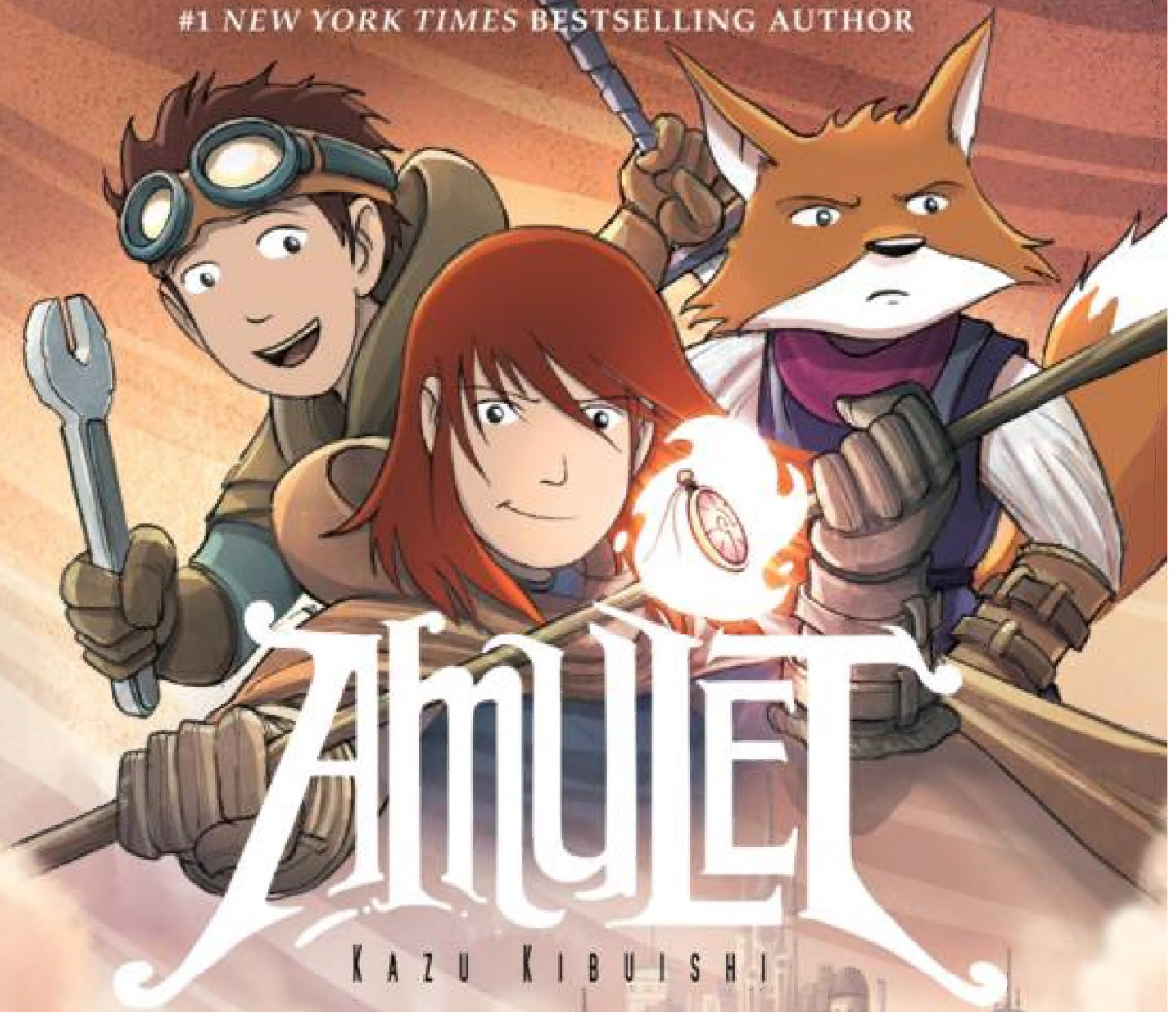
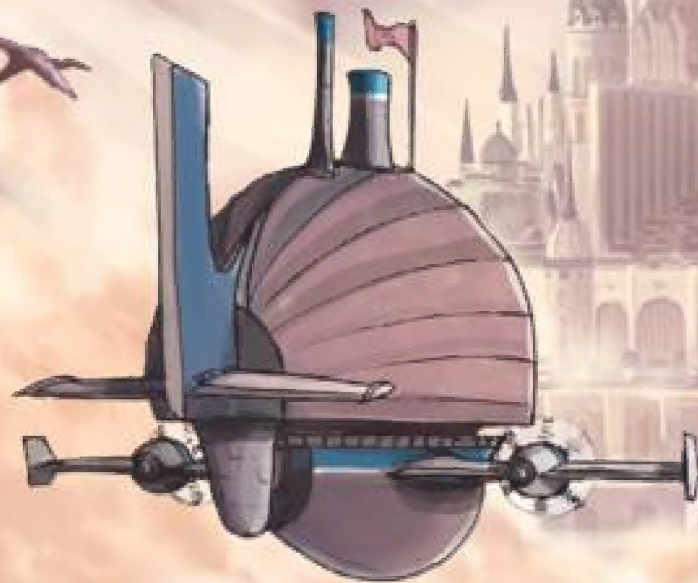


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



Ambler

KAZU KIBUISHI



BOOK THREE
THE CLOUD SEARCHERS

 SCHOLASTIC

Amulet

KAZU KIBUSHI

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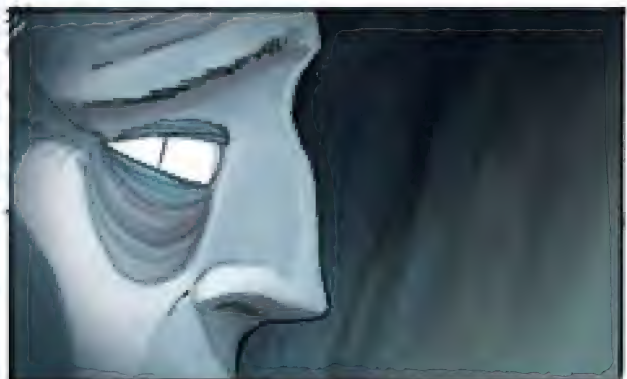


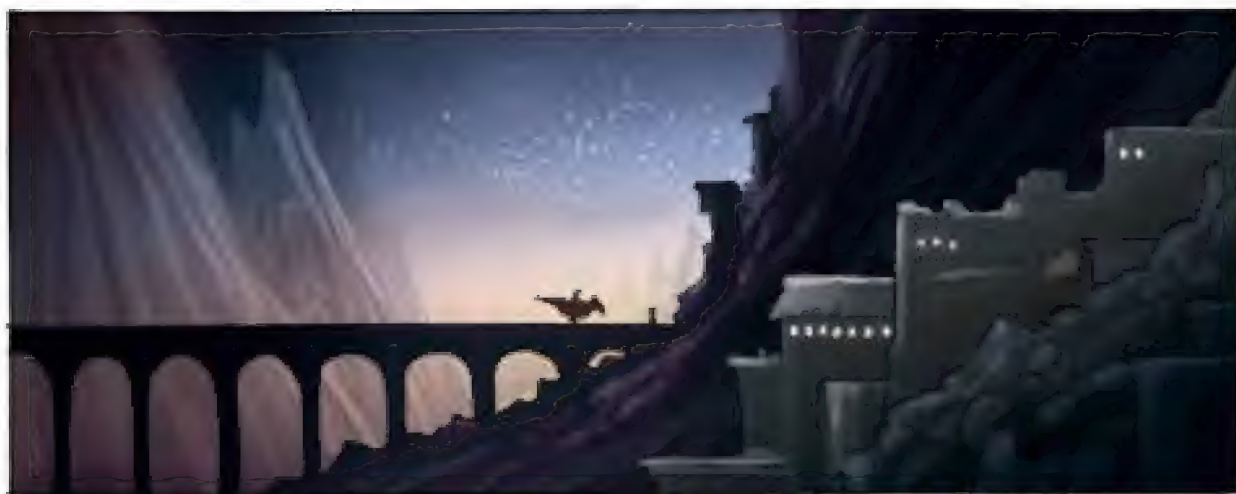






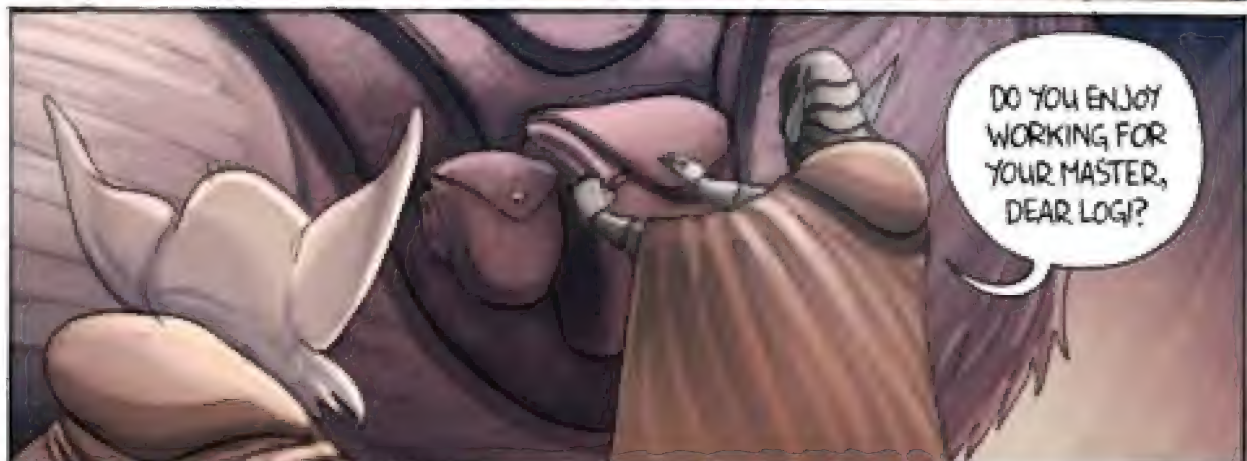


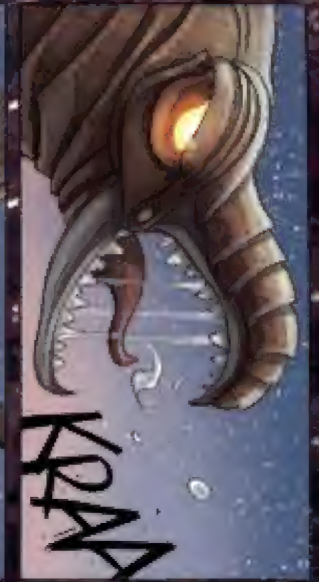








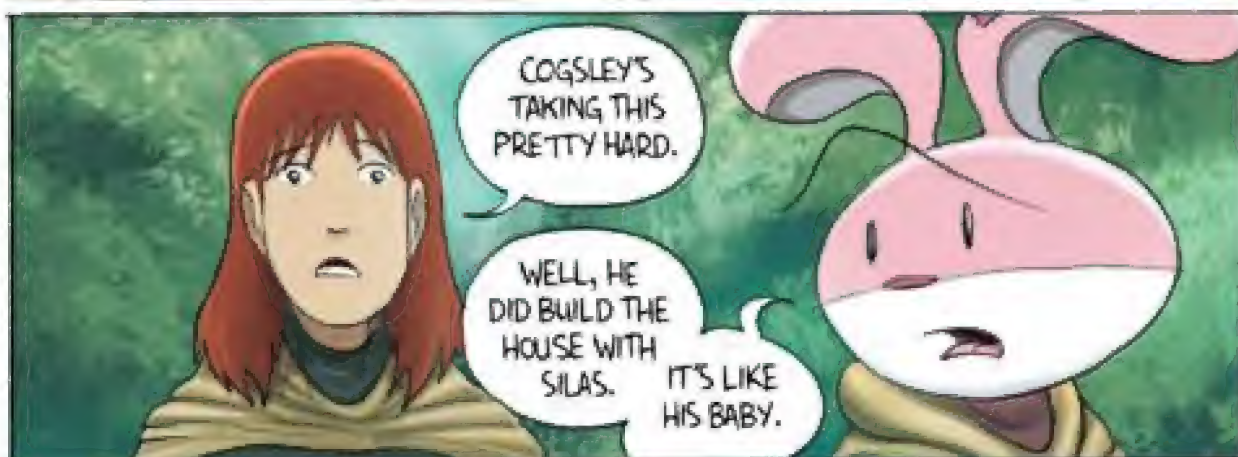




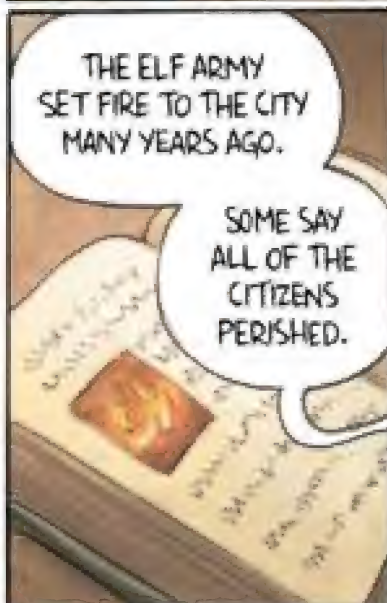
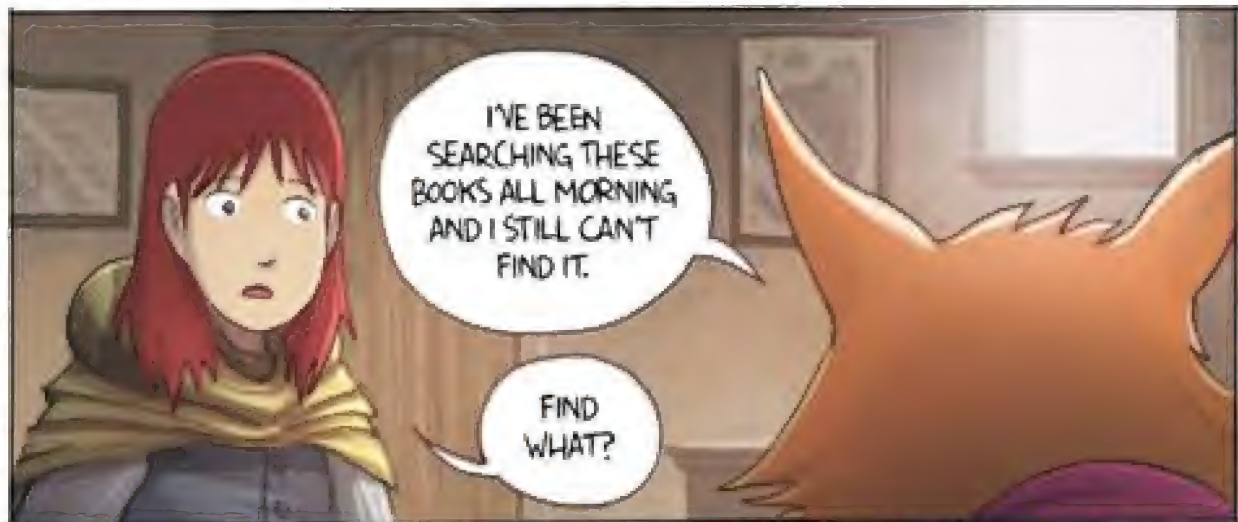














THE LEADERS OF THIS CITY CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.

THE FIVE GREAT STONEKEEPERS WHO COMPRISED THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL WERE CHOSEN TO GOVERN ALLEDIA. FOR MANY YEARS, THINGS WENT ACCORDING TO THEIR PLANS AND ALLEDIA BENEFITED FROM A CENTURY OF PEACE.

SO IT CAME AS A SURPRISE WHEN GULFEN, THE NATION OF ELVES, ROSE UP AND BEGAN INVADING ITS NEIGHBORS WITHOUT WARNING. WHAT WAS ONCE A PEACEFUL NATION HAD BECOME A RUTHLESS AGGRESSOR.



THE GREAT CITY OF CELIS SUFFERED THE FIERCEST ATTACK DURING THE WAR. IN A BATTLE FOR THE THRONE OF ALLEDIA, THE ELVES BURNED MOST OF IT TO THE GROUND.

WHEN THE DUST CLEARED, ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF CELIS WAS A GIANT CRATER.

MOST BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF CELIS PERISHED IN THE FLAMES. BUT THERE ARE A FEW, LIKE THE DESS-TANCE, WHO BELIEVE THE CITY STILL EXISTS INTACT.



SOME SAY THAT THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL LIFTED THE CITY OUT OF THE GROUND AND HID IT AMONG THE CLOUDS, WHERE THEY COULD SAFELY REBUILD.

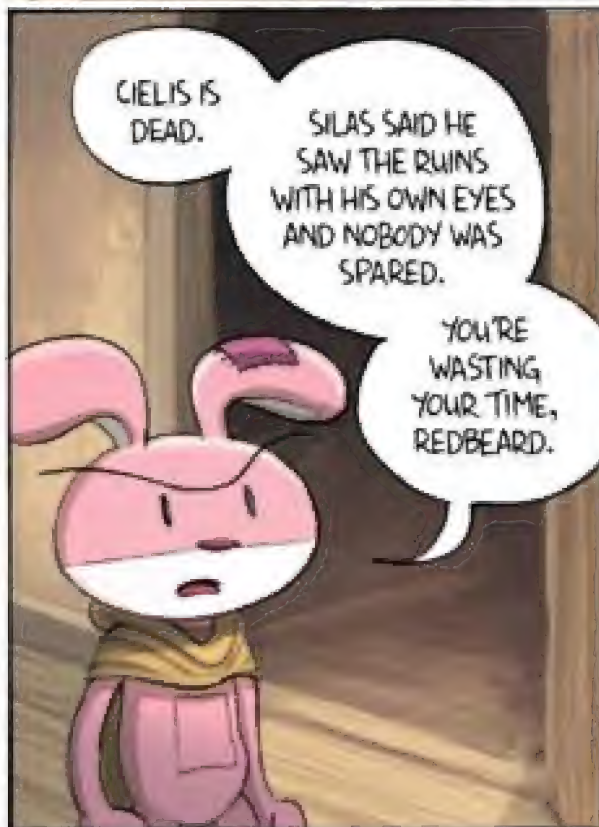
OTHERS CALL IT A MYTH. BUT WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THE STORY TO BE TRUE, BECAUSE THE SURVIVAL OF ALLEDIA DEPENDS ON THE EXISTENCE OF CELIS AND THE GUARDIAN COUNCIL.

THEY ARE OUR LAST REMAINING HOPE.





EMILY,
DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM.



CELIS IS
DEAD.

SILAS SAID HE
SAW THE RUINS
WITH HIS OWN EYES
AND NOBODY WAS
SPARED.

YOU'RE
WASTING
YOUR TIME,
REDBEARD.



IF THAT'S TRUE,
THEN EXPLAIN
THIS.



POOMF!

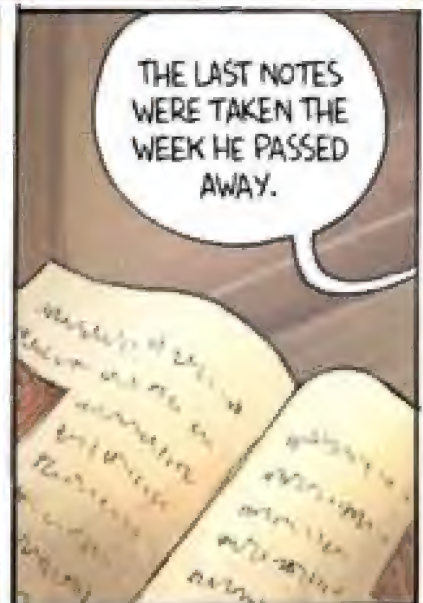
THESE ARE
SILAS'S NOTES.



IF SILAS
BELIEVED
CELIS WAS
GONE --



-- WHY DID HE
SPEND SO MUCH
TIME LOOKING
FOR IT?



THE LAST NOTES
WERE TAKEN THE
WEEK HE PASSED
AWAY.











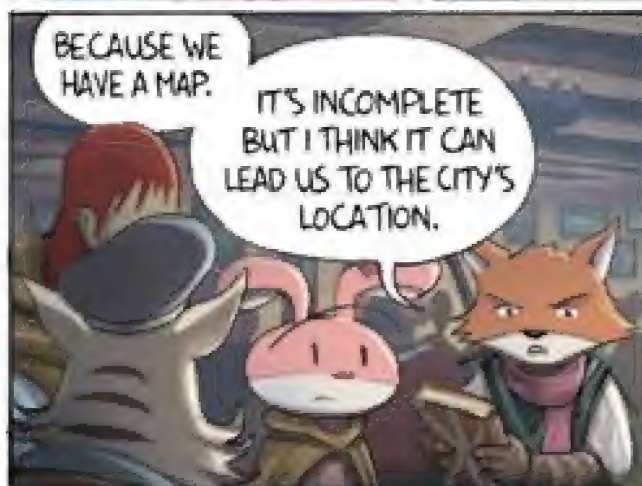














I CAN
GUIDE US.

YOU?

WHO ARE
YOU?

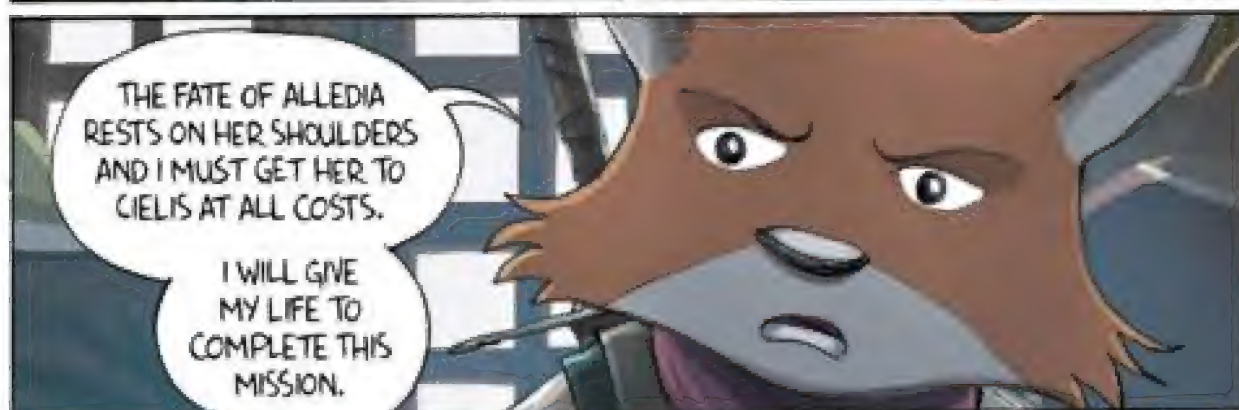
SILAS WAS
MY GREAT-
GRANDFATHER
AND I HAVE TAKEN
HIS PLACE...



...AS
KEEPER OF
THIS STONE.



HMPH.



THE FATE OF ALLEDIA
RESTS ON HER SHOULDERS
AND I MUST GET HER TO
CIELIS AT ALL COSTS.

I WILL GIVE
MY LIFE TO
COMPLETE THIS
MISSION.



LOOK,
YOU'RE ASKING
THE WRONG CAT.
I HAVE OTHER
CLIENTS WAITING.

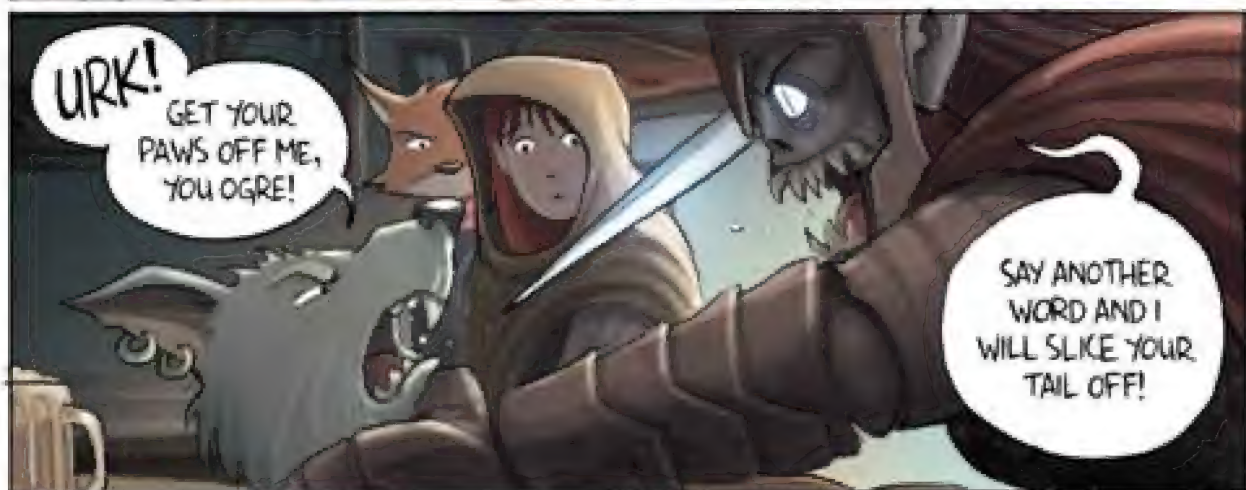


PLEASE,
CAPTAIN.



SORRY,
KID. IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE IN OVER
YOUR HEAD, AND I
CAN'T HELP YOU.

SLAM!













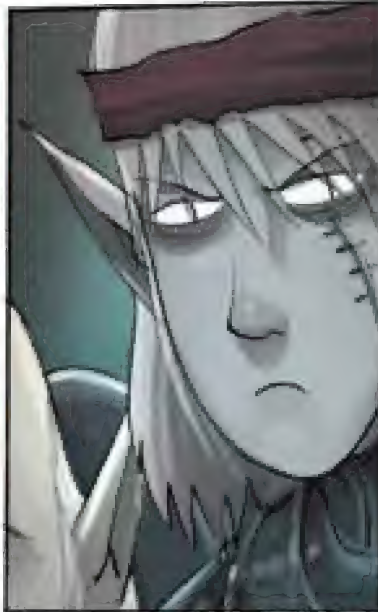








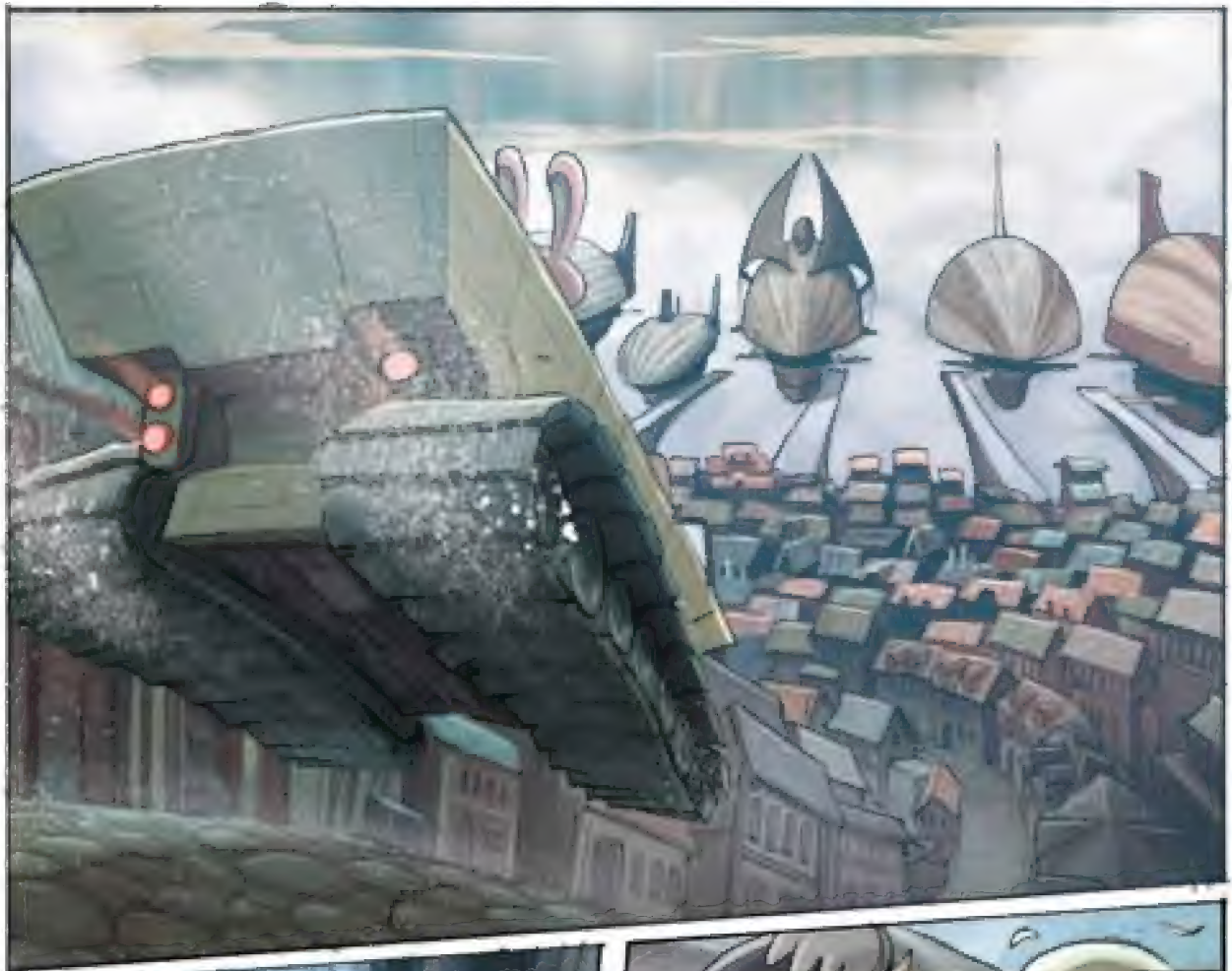




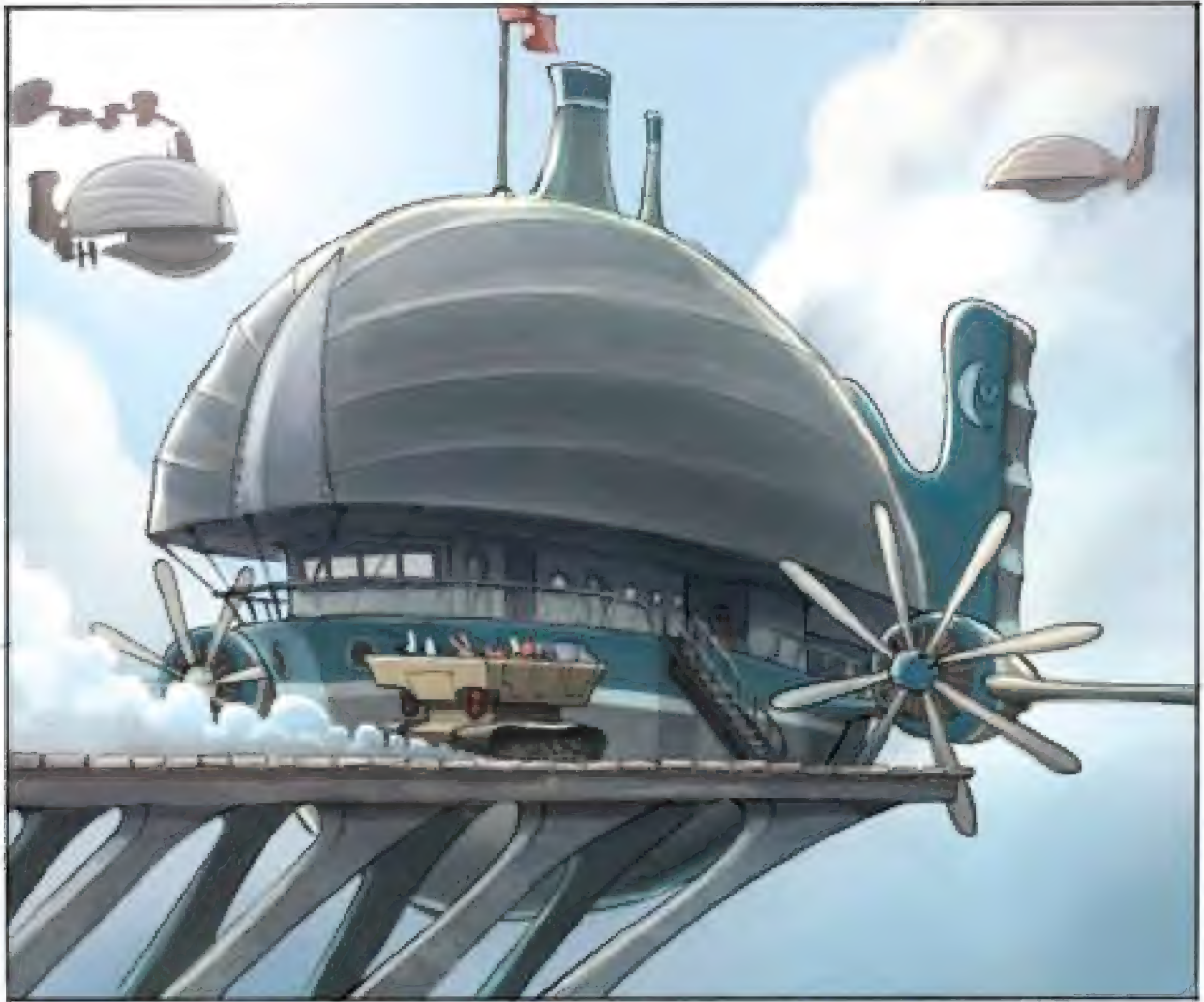


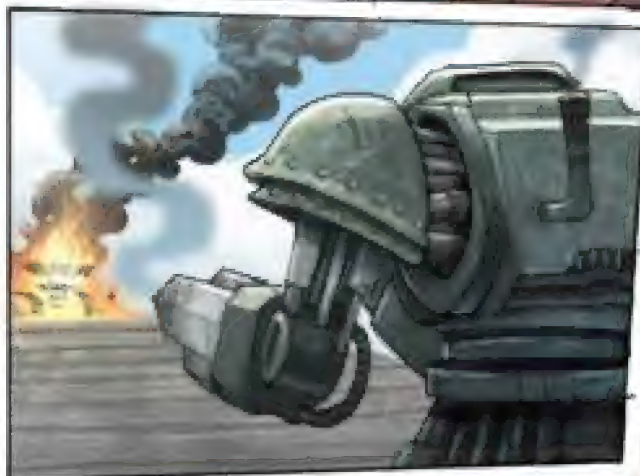


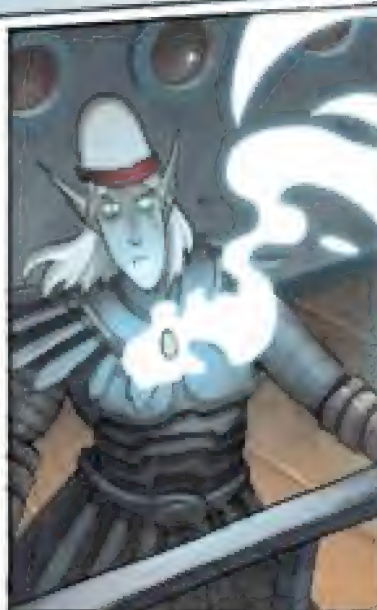






















WE HAVE TO
FIND A WAY
HOME!

IF WE STAY
HERE, WE'RE
GOING TO GET
SERIOUSLY
HURT.

OR
WORSE.



I TOLD YOU,
MOM.

IF YOU GO
HOME, I CAN'T
COME WITH YOU.



BUT WHY
NOT?!

WHAT'S
HOLDING YOU
BACK?



IT IS THE
CURSE OF THE
STONEKEEPER.

THE STONE WILL
NOT LET YOU LEAVE
NOW, WILL IT?



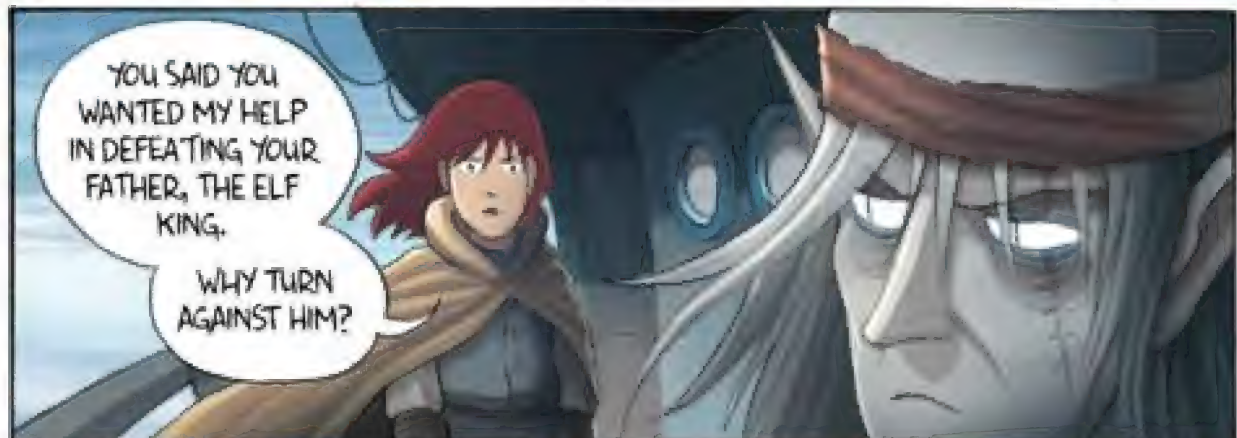
NO.
IT
WON'T.



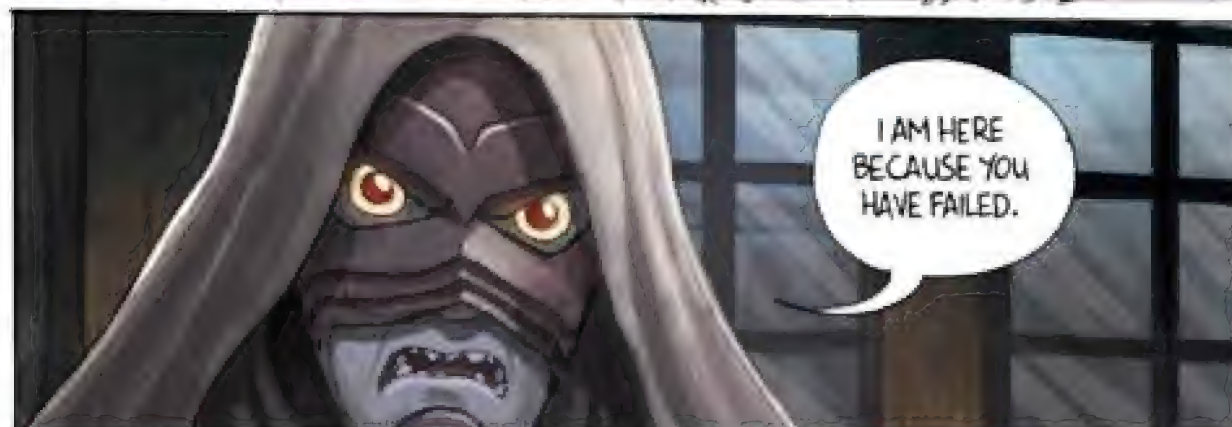
A CURSE?

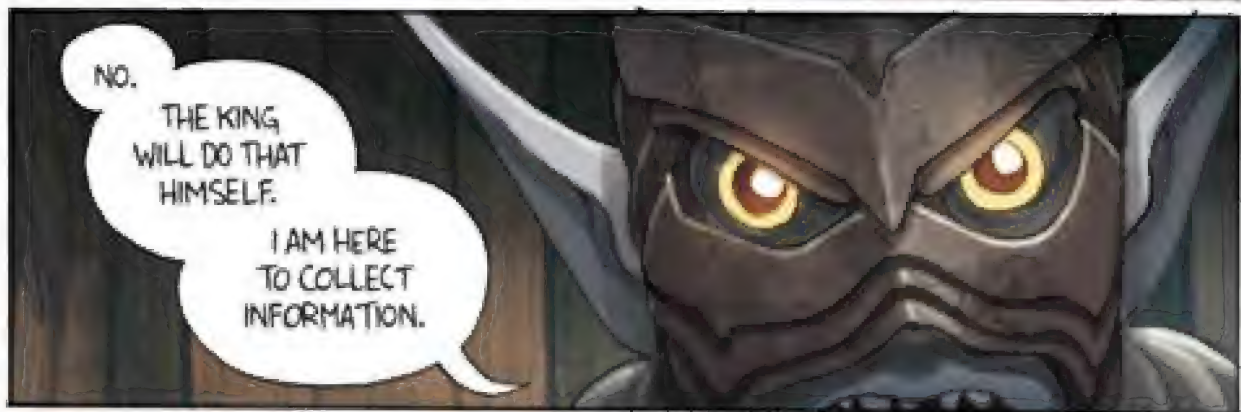
THAT'S
ENOUGH,
LUGER.









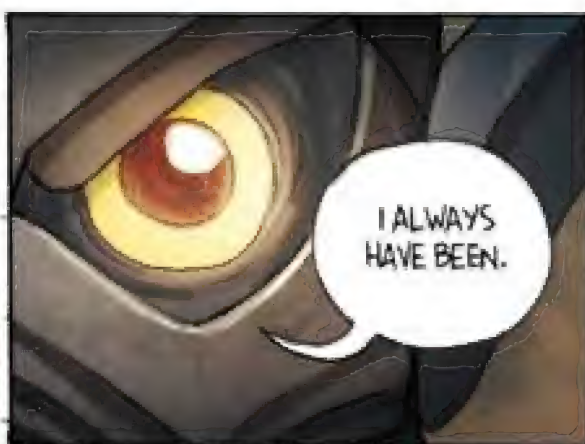




IF I HELP
YOU FIND THEM,
YOU'LL GET YOUR
BOUNTY AND WE'LL
BE EXECUTED FOR
FAILING THE KING'S
ORDERS.

NOT A
GOOD DEAL
FOR US.

YOU'RE ON
YOUR OWN HERE,
BUDDY.



I ALWAYS
HAVE BEEN.

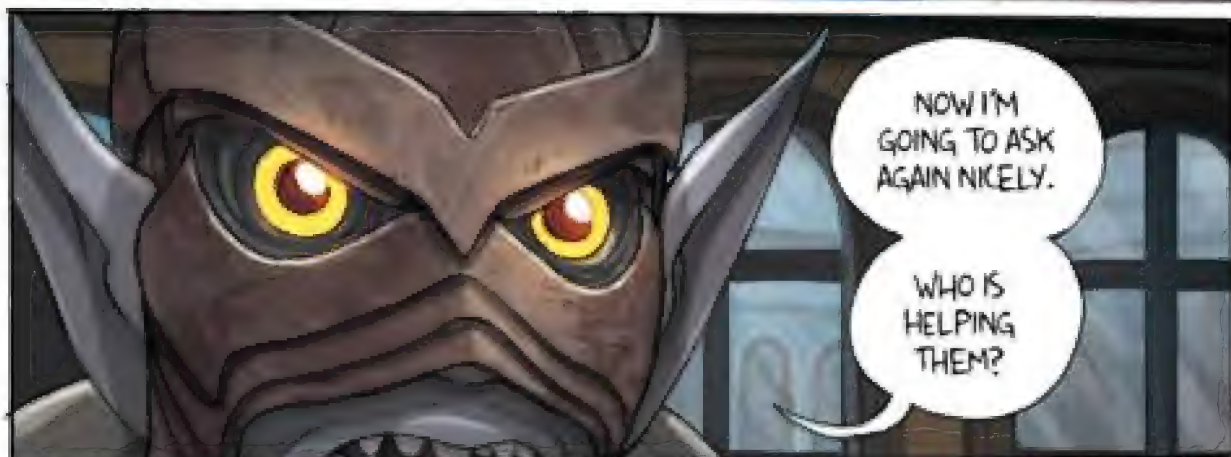


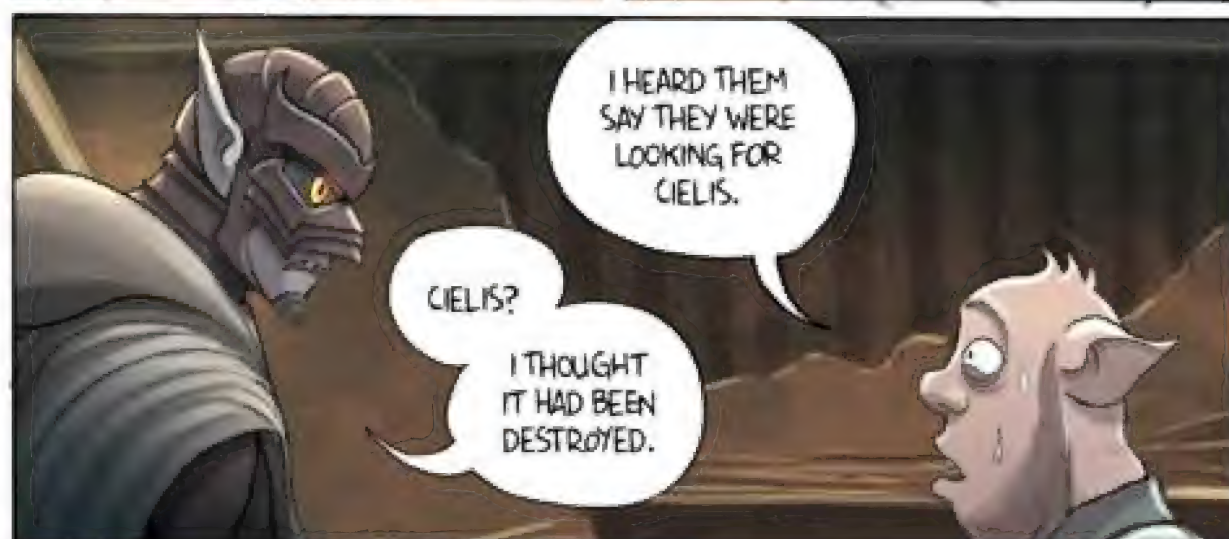
THIS IS
A MEMORY
EXTRACTOR.

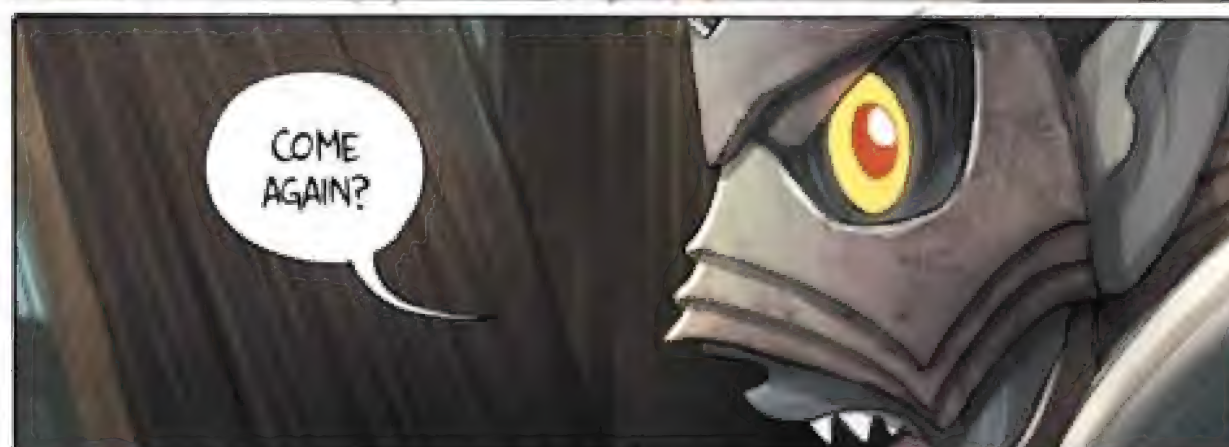
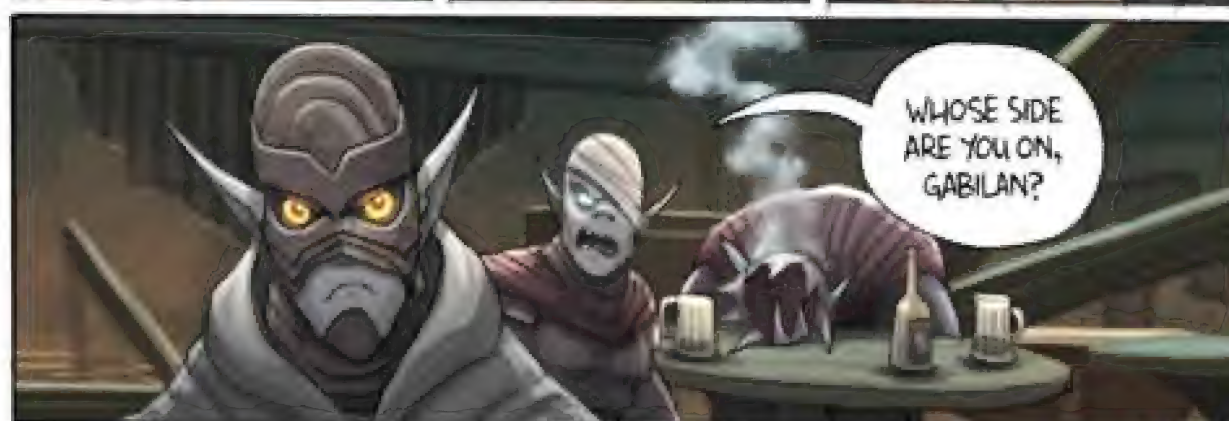
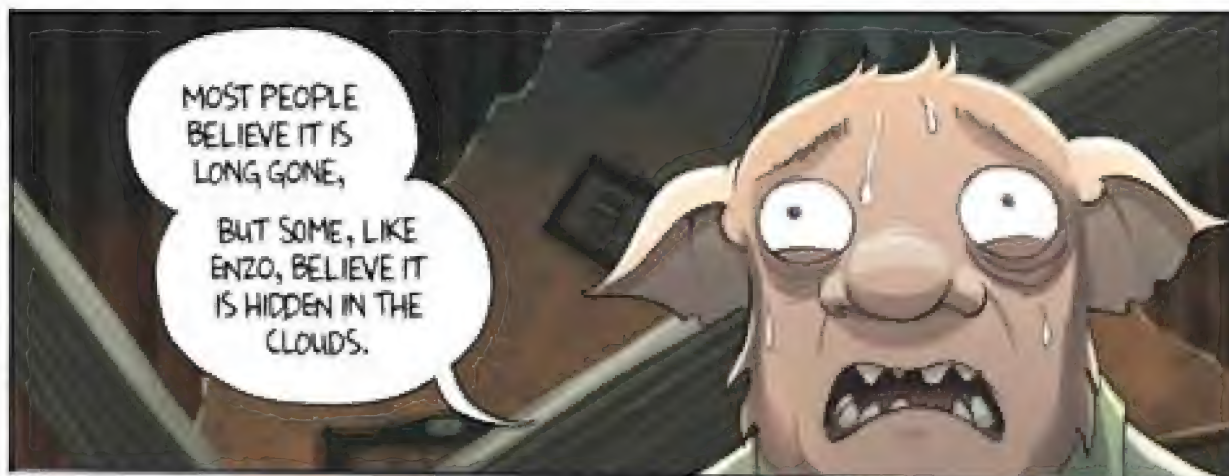
I PULL THIS
TRIGGER AND I
STEAL ALL YOUR
MEMORIES.



IT WILL TAKE
YEARS TO RECOVER
FROM IT.













WHO ARE
YOU?



YOU KNOW
WHO I AM.



WHERE
ARE WE?



THIS IS OUR
MEETING
PLACE.



NOT HERE.
I DON'T WANT
TO MEET HERE.

WHY
NOT?

THAT
TREE.
IT BRINGS
PAINFUL
MEMORIES.



OF
COURSE.



YOU CAN
MAKE IT
GO AWAY.

YOU HAVE
AS MUCH
CONTROL
AS I DO.



AHH,
HOW
PLEASANT.



WHAT DO
YOU WANT
FROM ME?



LET ME
SHOW YOU.

THIS
WAY.

WHERE ARE
WE GOING?


TO SEE
THE FUTURE
IN THE EYES OF
THE ELF KING.

TO SEE
WHAT MAY
BECOME.

THIS ISN'T
ALLEDIA.

NO. IT IS YOUR
HOME WORLD,
EARTH.

YOU MUST KNOW
BY NOW THAT ALLEDIA
ISN'T THE ONLY WORLD
IN DANGER.




HE WANTS
YOU TO GO
HOME, EMILY.

PERHAPS
MORE THAN
YOU DO.




WHY?

BECAUSE
YOU CAN
HELP ME
STOP HIM.




THEN MAYBE
I SHOULD JUST GO.

THAT'S WHAT I
WANT, AS WELL.



IF THAT WERE
TRUE, THEN WHY
DID YOU LIE TO
THEM, EMILY?

YOU KNOW
THAT YOU CAN
COME AND GO
AS YOU PLEASE.



YOU TOLD
THEM I WAS
FORCING YOU
TO STAY.

BUT IT
WAS YOUR
CHOICE.









THE GOLBEZ CYCLE
HAS BEEN RAGING ON
FOR CENTURIES WITH
NO INDICATION OF
SLOWING.



THE STORM IS
MANAGEABLE ON
CERTAIN ROUTES,

BUT THE AREA IS
A KNOWN GRAVEYARD
FOR AIRSHIPS. MOST
CAPTAINS ARE ADVISED
TO STAY WELL CLEAR
OF THE TERRITORY.



I CAN FLY
US INTO THE
STORM,

BUT I NEED TO
KNOW FOR CERTAIN
THAT CIELIS WILL BE
THERE WAITING FOR
US. THE RISKS ARE
TOO HUGE.



I CAN'T
GUARANTEE THAT
CIELIS IS THERE,
BUT THIS GUIDE IS
THE BEST LEAD WE
HAVE.



ANOTHER
LEAP OF FAITH?

YOU KNOW
I'M STILL WITH
YOU ON THIS,
CHIEF.



BUT I'M
STARTING TO
FEEL LIKE WE'RE
DRIFTING UP A
CREEK WITHOUT
A PADDLE.



CHOP CHOP
CHOP



HOW ARE
THOSE
CARROTS?

CHOP
CHOP

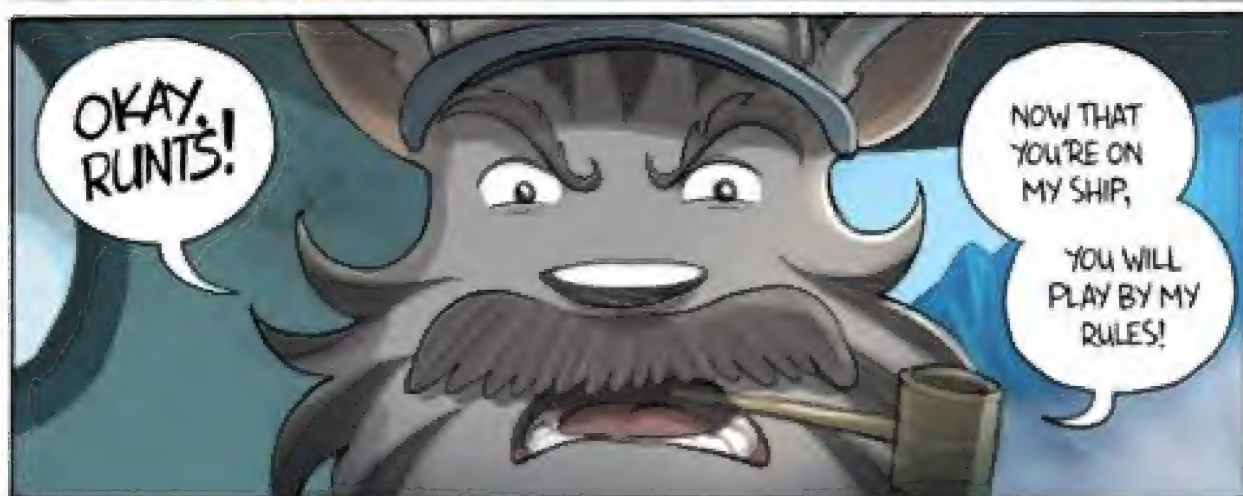
ALMOST
DONE.



JUST KEEP
STIRRING?

YES.
YES.

DON'T LET
IT BURN.

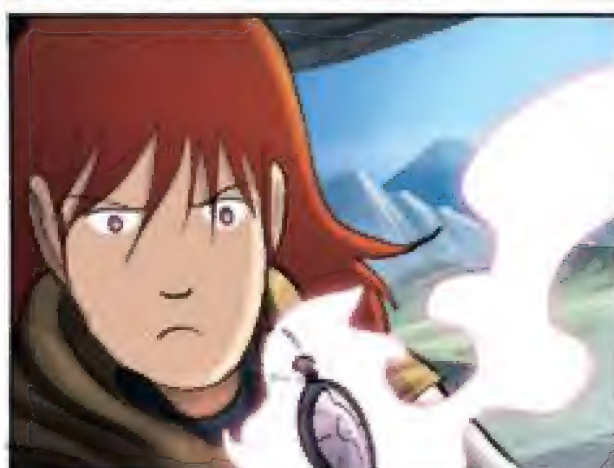
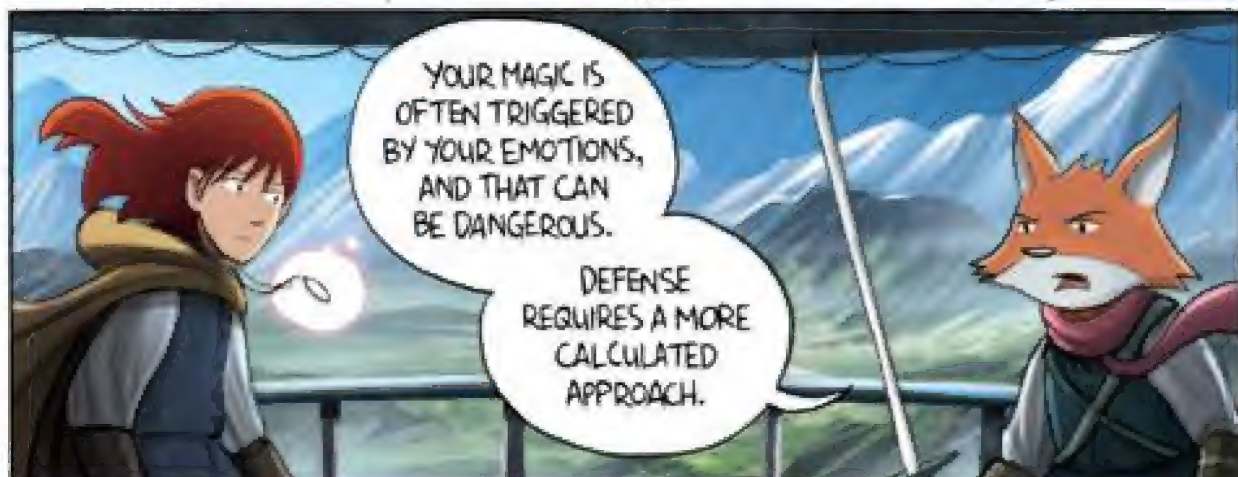








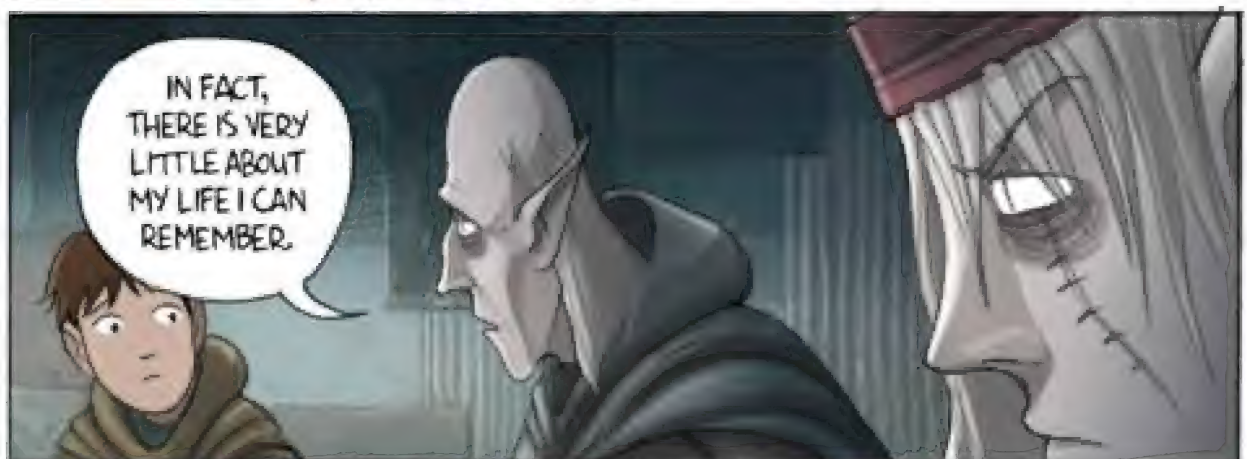
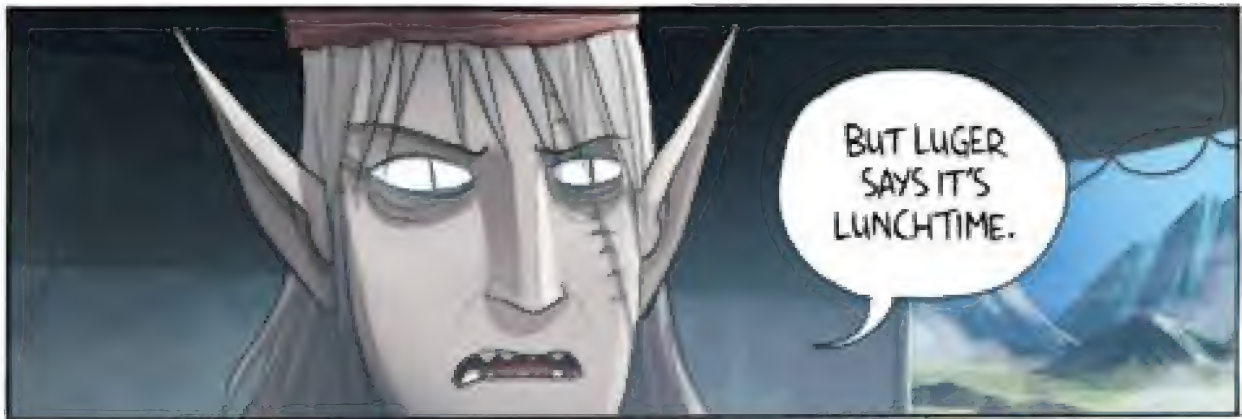














YOU BOYS DO SOMETHING WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT?



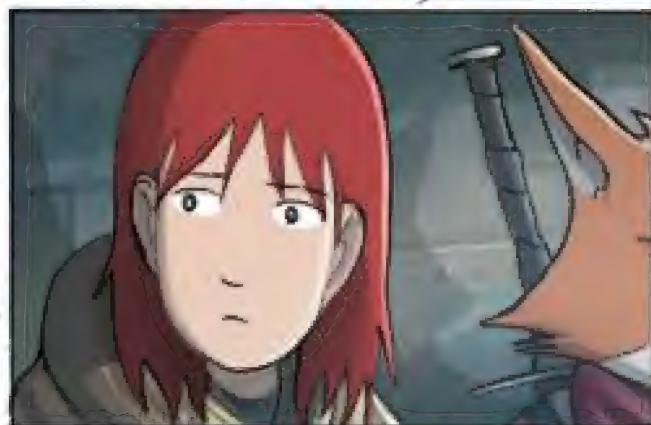
EVERYTHING ON THIS SHIP IS MY BUSINESS, SON.



HE IS NOT MY FATHER, CAPTAIN.

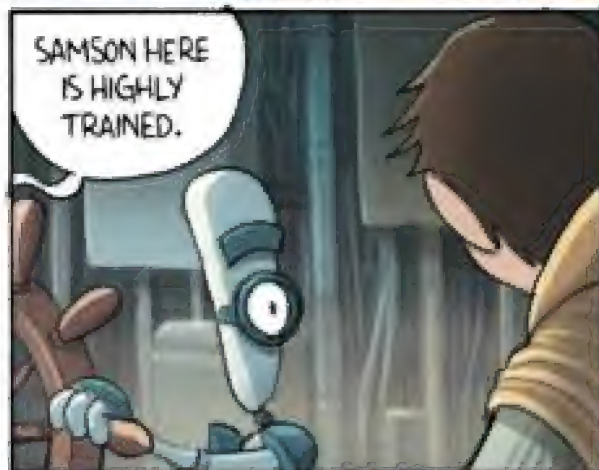


THEY GET LIKE THAT AT THIS AGE.

















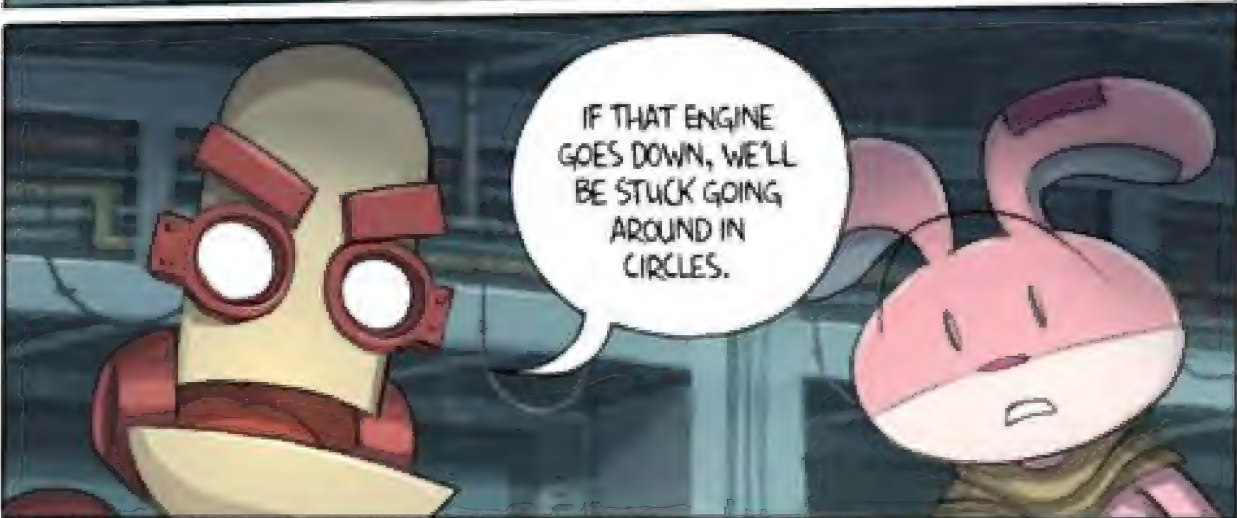
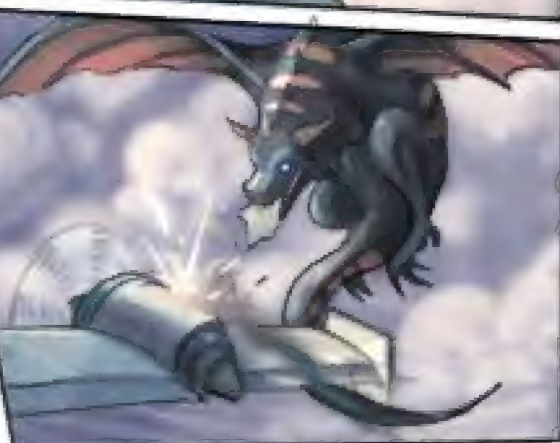
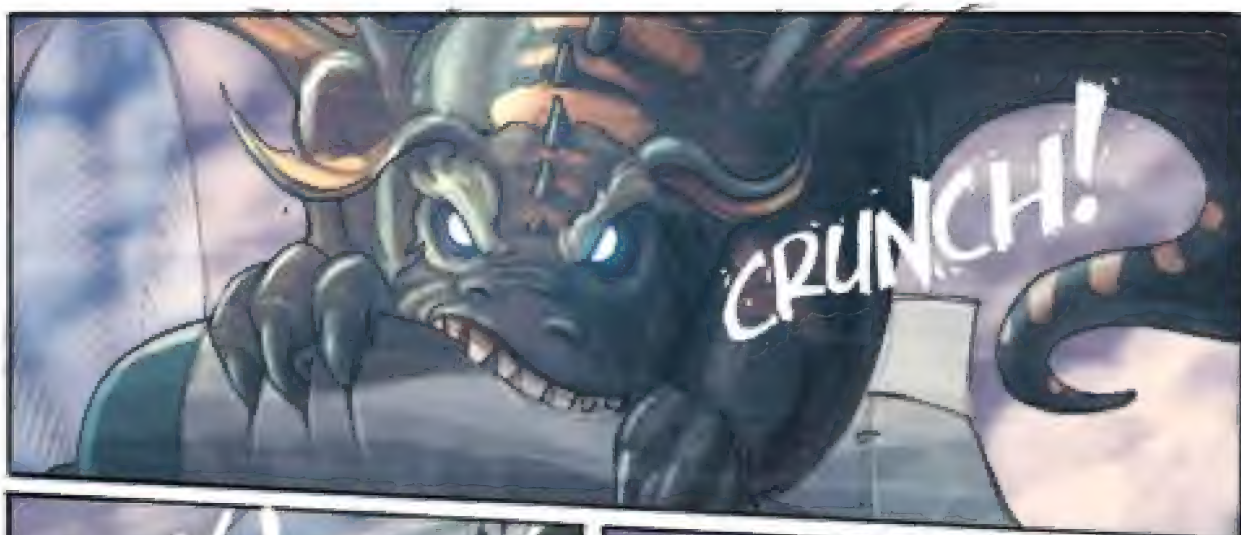


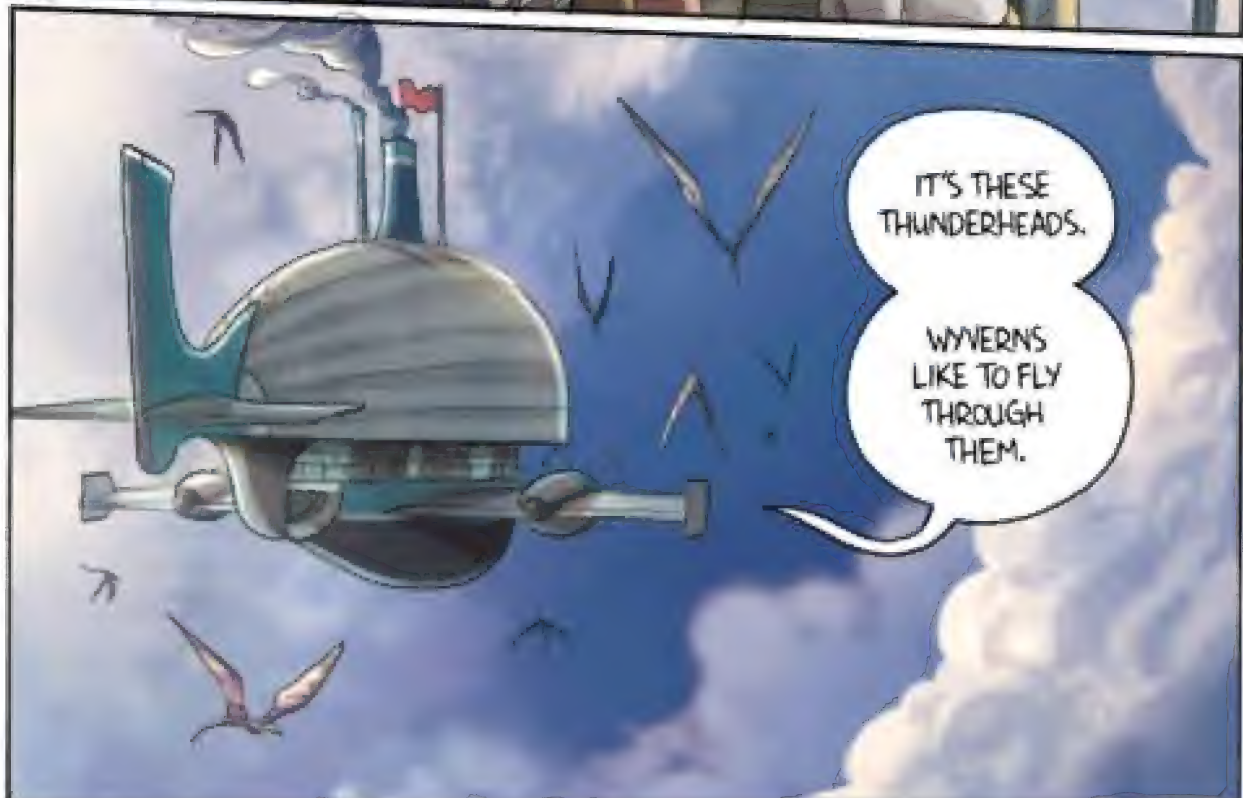








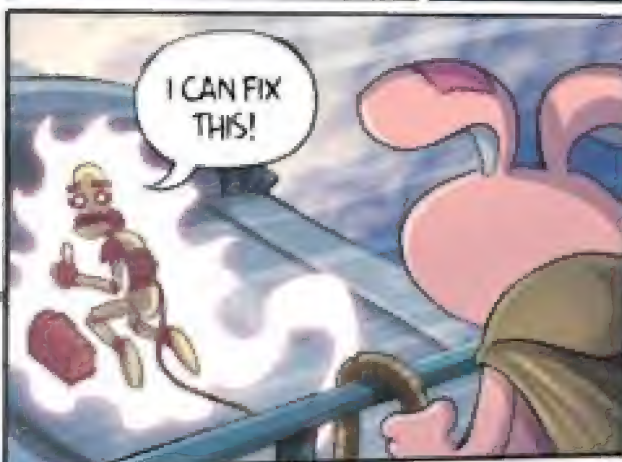
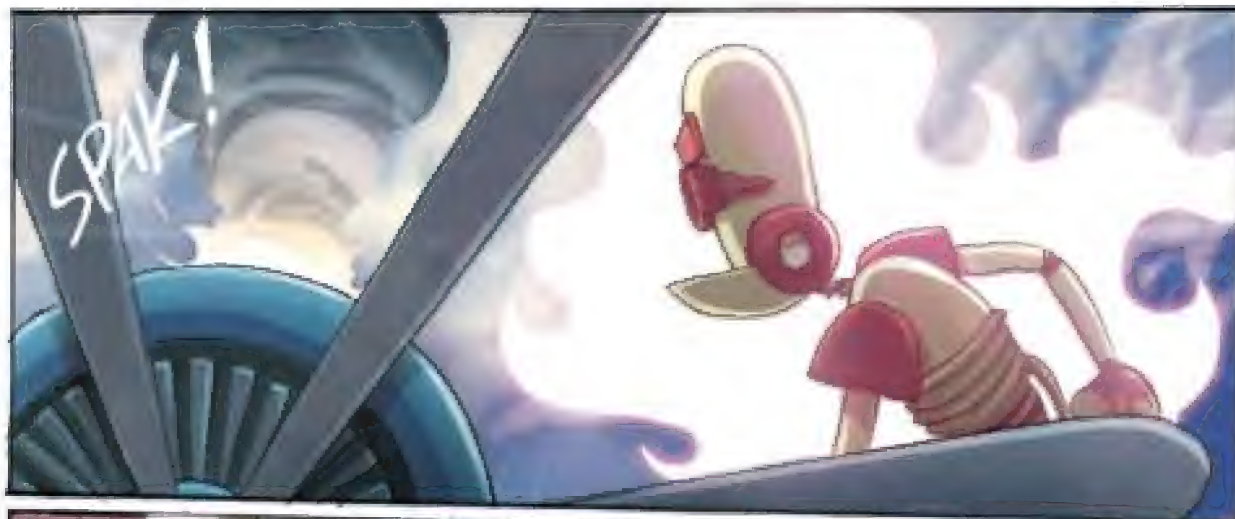








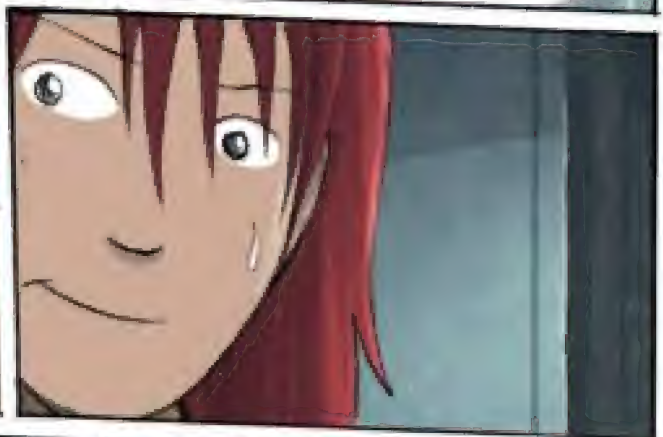






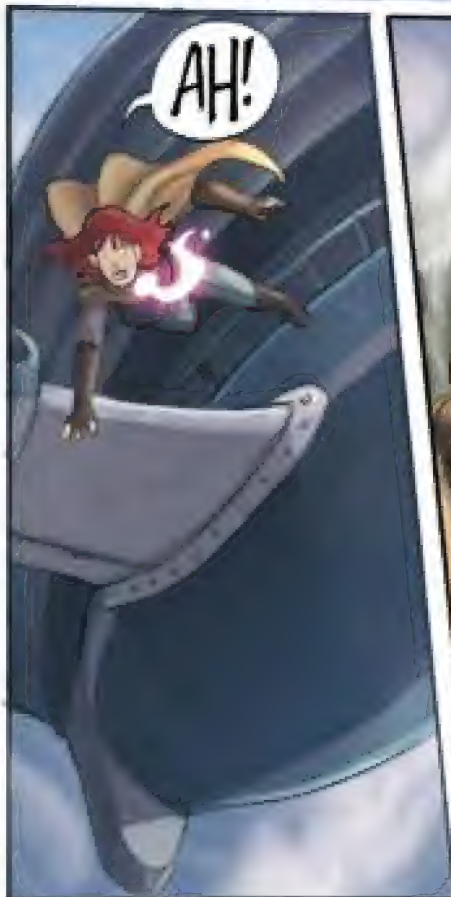






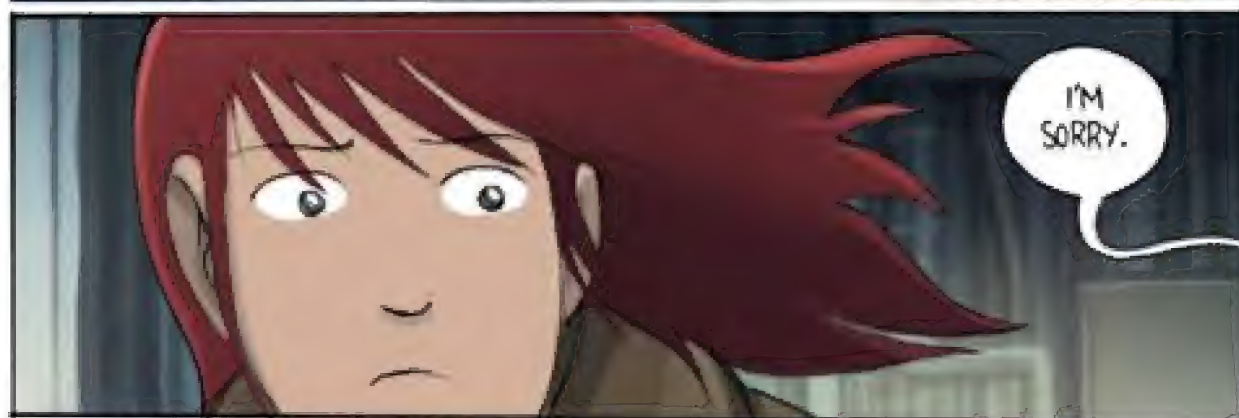
















WE NEED TO REFUEL SOON, ENZO.



WE ALSO NEED TO REPAIR THE ENGINE.

:(SIGH):



WHAT'S THE MATTER?



THERE'S ONLY ONE FUELING STATION SERVING THIS ROUTE.

AND I WAS HOPING WE COULD AVOID A PIT STOP.



UH-OH.

ARE WE WHERE I THINK WE ARE?

SHE'S THE ONLY ONE OUT HERE, RICO.



LET'S JUST HOPE OLD WOUNDS HEAL FAST.



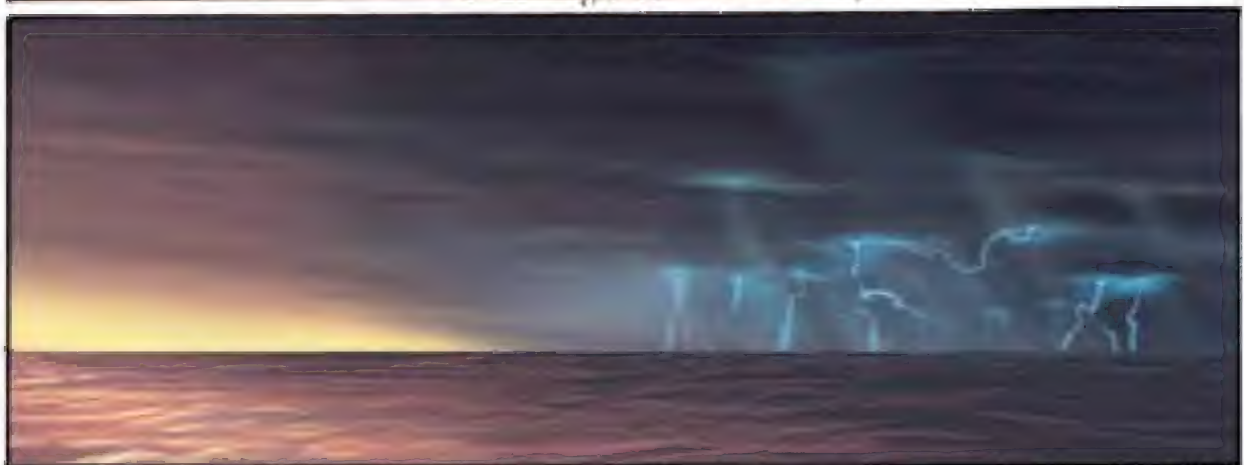














DON'T WORRY, NAVIN.

I'M SURE THEY'RE OKAY.



THEY SEEM VERY CAPABLE, AND I'M CERTAIN THEY WEREN'T EATEN.



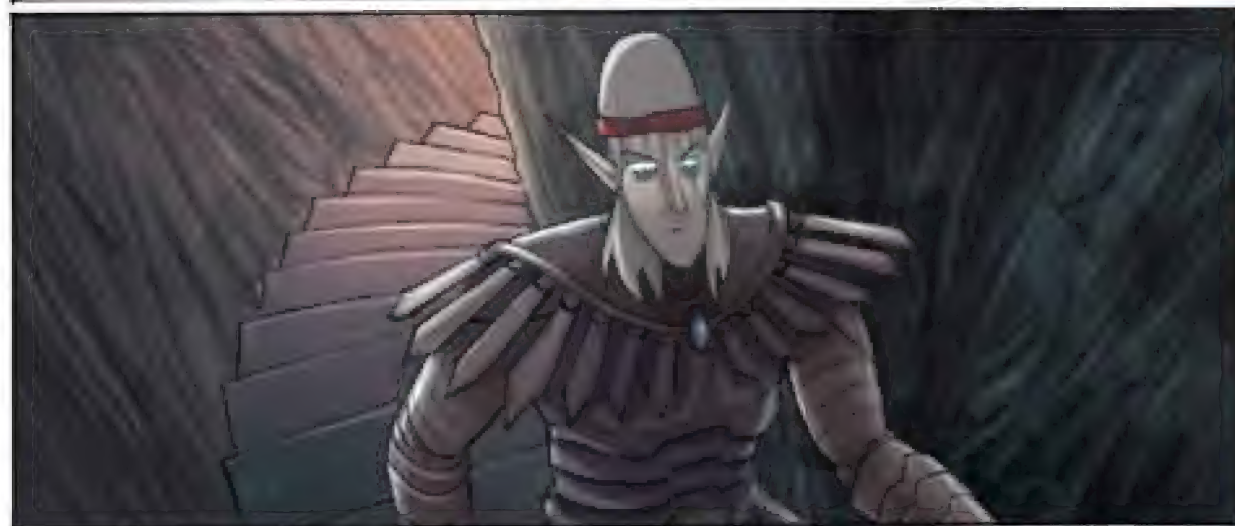
THIS IS LIKE WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR TOYS.

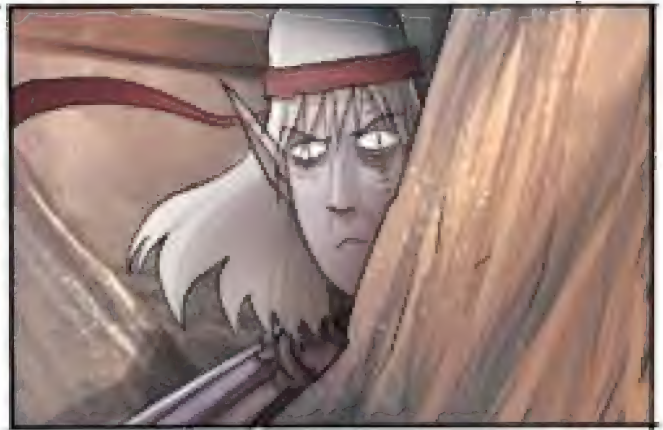
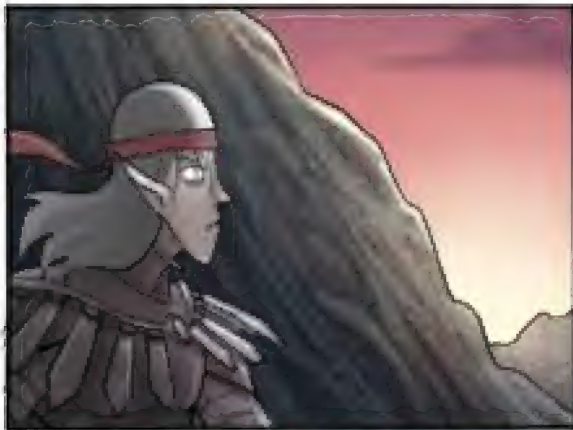
THEY'LL TURN UP AGAIN, EVENTUALLY.



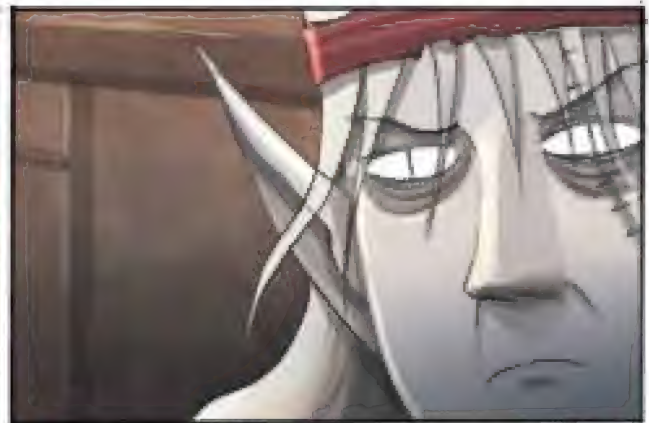
I DUNNO, MOM.

I DON'T THINK THIS IS LIKE THAT AT ALL.









IT WAS SEEN
AS AN ACT OF
TREASON.

MY FATHER WAS LOOKING
FOR A YOUNG STONEKEEPER
TO TAKE MY PLACE AS HIS
SUCCESSOR, AND I WANTED
TO STOP HIM.

I WANTED TO USE
YOU AGAINST HIM,
BUT I FAILED.





HE WANTED
ME TO BE HIS
SUCCESSOR?



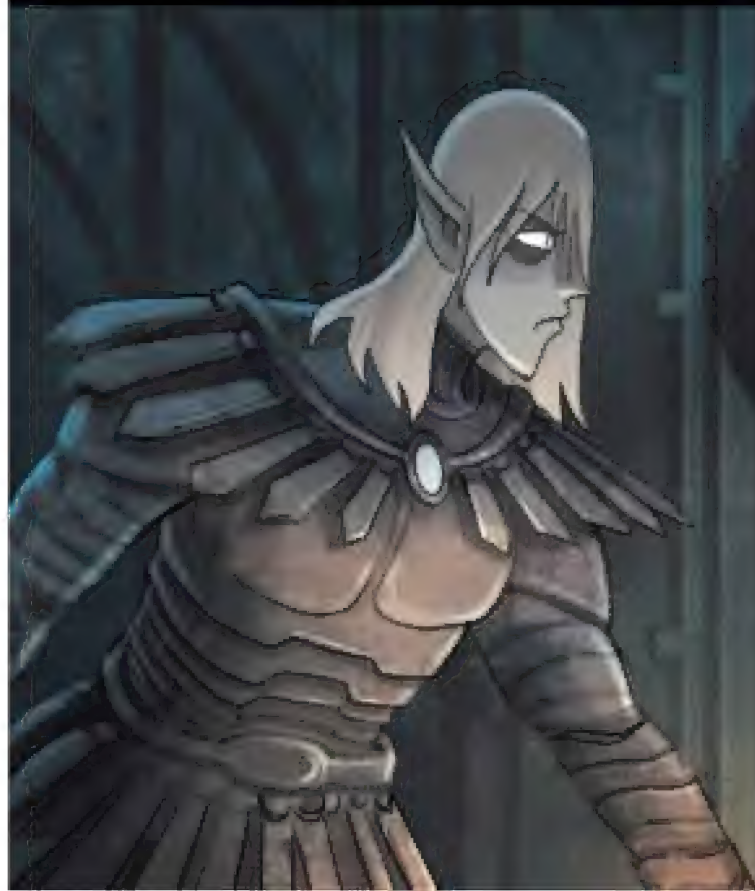
BEING JEALOUS,
I ASSUMED THAT
WAS HIS WISH.



BUT I'M AFRAID
THE TRUTH IS
FAR MORE
SINISTER.

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL
YEARS, I HAVE HAD TROUBLE
REMEMBERING THINGS. THE
KINDS OF THINGS ONE
DOESN'T FORGET.

MUCH OF MY CHILDHOOD
AND EARLY LIFE WERE A BLANK
SLATE, AND I SUSPECTED MY
FATHER HAD SOMETHING TO
DO WITH IT.




STRANGELY ENOUGH,
ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING
IMAGES IN MY MEMORY WAS
THAT OF MY FATHER'S FACE.
IT WAS THE ONLY THING I
SAW CLEARLY, AS IF I HAD
DECIDED IT WAS THE ONLY
MEMORY WORTH KEEPING.

I WANTED TO SEE HIM
AGAIN, TO CATCH A GLIMPSE
OF HIS FACE BEHIND THE MASK,
WITH THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT
HELP BRING BACK MORE
MEMORIES.



UNDER THE COVER OF
NIGHT, I SNUCK INTO HIS
TOWER AND BEDROOM
CHAMBER.


AND WHAT I SAW
I WILL NEVER FORGET.



BEHIND THE MASK
WAS MY FATHER'S
FACE, JUST AS I HAD
REMEMBERED IT.

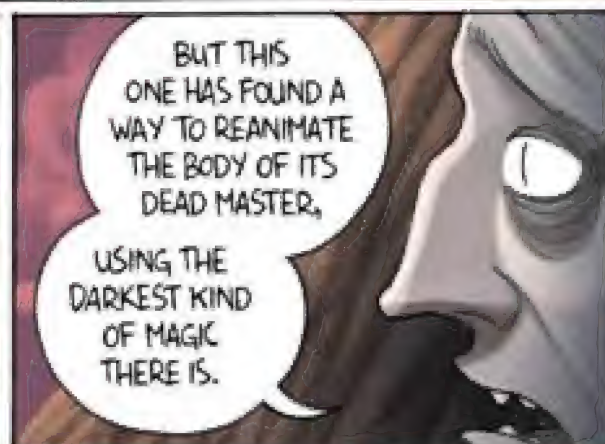
BUT JUST AS MY
MEMORY WAS FROZEN
IN TIME, THE FACE BEFORE
ME WAS FROZEN AS WELL.

SOMETHING
WAS WRONG.



HIS FEATURES WERE GAUNT
AND GRAY, WITH SKIN LIKE
STONE. HIS EYES GLAZED OVER
BY A MILKY WHITE SUBSTANCE,
AND NOTHING BUT A COLD
EMPTYNESS BEHIND THEM.

HE WAS
DEAD.











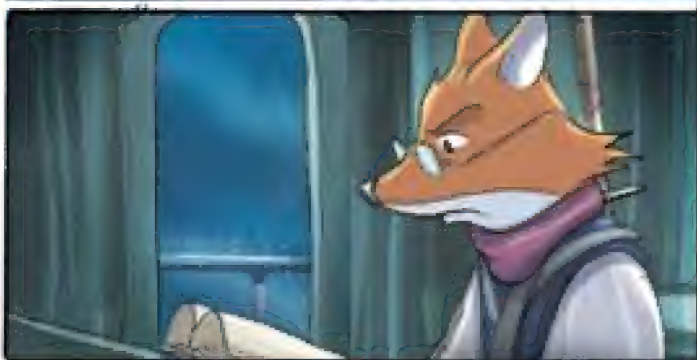
















THEY ARE AMONG THE OLDEST LIVING ANIMALS ON OUR PLANET.

THAT EEL RIGHT THERE IS PROBABLY OLDER THAN THE HISTORY OF YOUR PEOPLE.

CAN YOU IMAGINE ALL THE THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE SEEN IN HIS LIFETIME?

HE MUST HAVE A TREASURE TROVE OF MEMORIES.



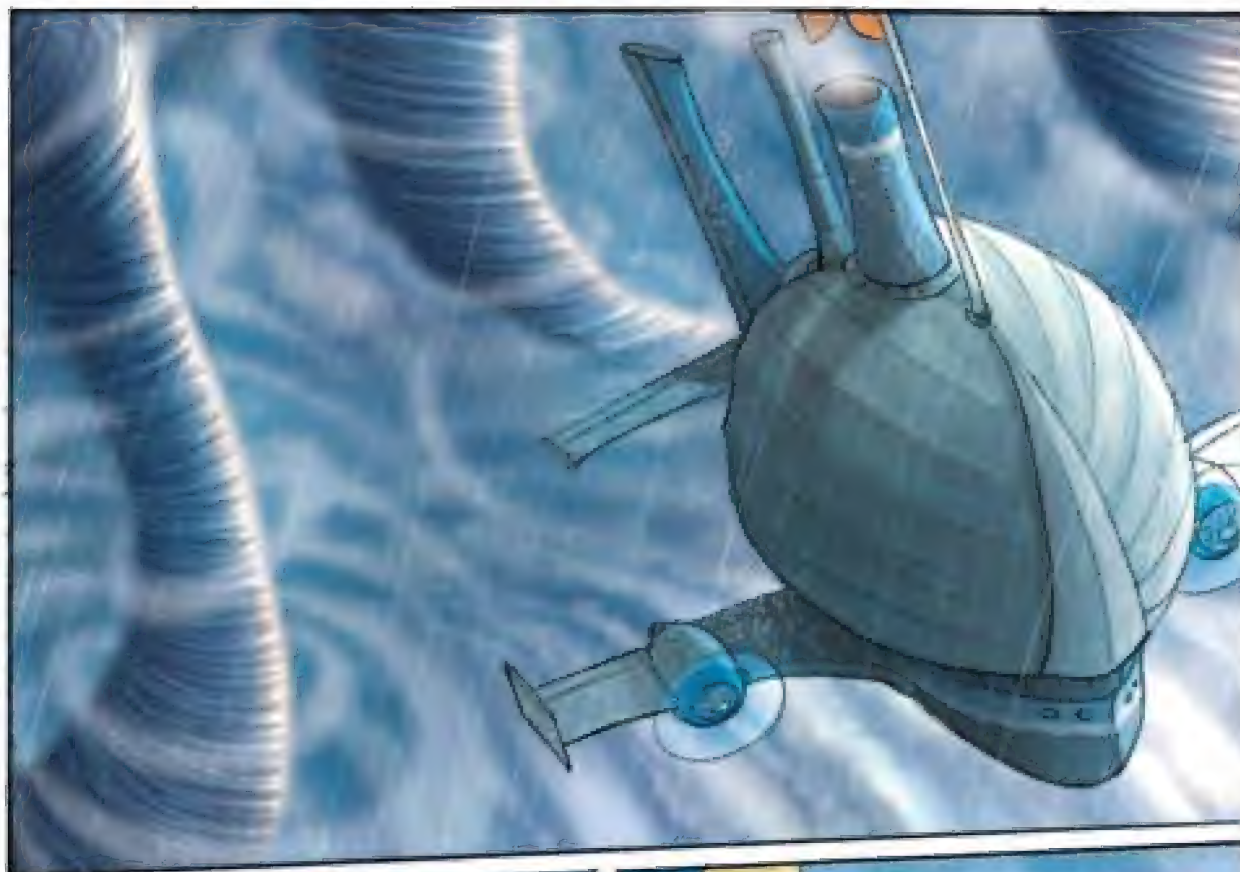




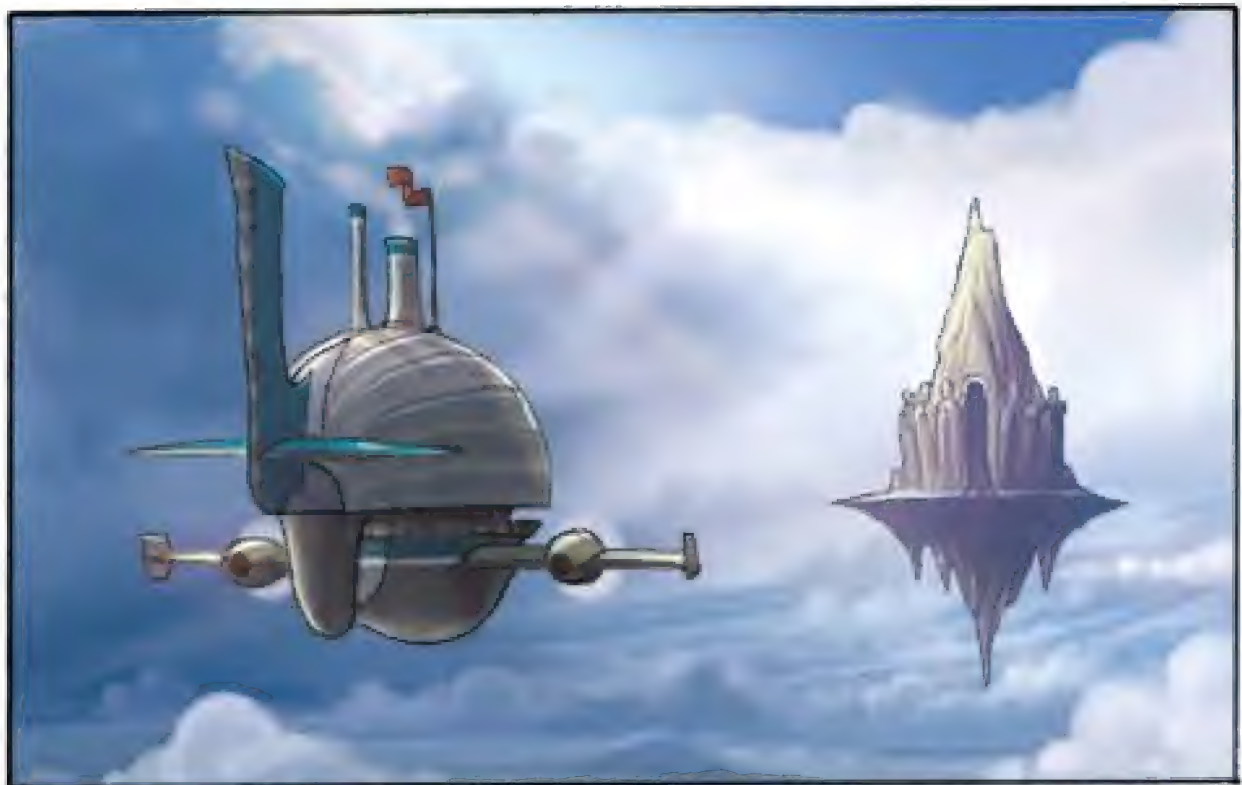


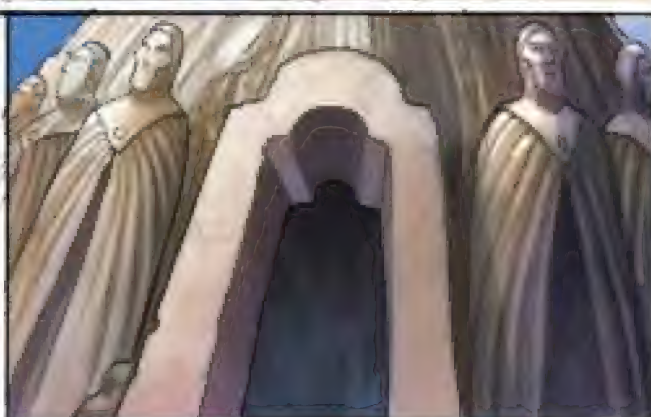












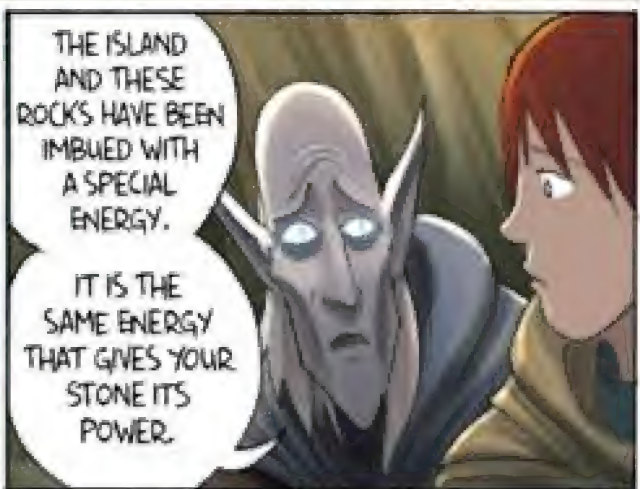


ACCORDING TO THE
BOOK, THIS ISLAND
IS SOME SORT
OF BEACON.

THIS PUZZLE MUST
HAVE BEEN PLACED HERE
TO TEST THOSE SEEKING
PASSAGE TO THE CITY.



HOW IS
ALL OF THIS
SUSPENDED
IN THE AIR?



THE ISLAND
AND THESE
ROCKS HAVE BEEN
IMBUED WITH
A SPECIAL
ENERGY.

IT IS THE
SAME ENERGY
THAT GIVES YOUR
STONE ITS
POWER.



EMILY.
TRELLIS.
LET'S
BEGIN.



HEY,
SETTLE
DOWN.



MEEP!



MMM!
GNN!



















YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO DID
THIS TO ME!

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO MADE
ME FORGET
EVERYTHING!



I WAS ONLY
FOLLOWING
YOUR FATHER'S
ORDERS, LUGER.



MY
FATHER?



FATHER?



LUGER'S
YOUR
BROTHER?



OH, LUGER,
YOU DIDN'T
KNOW?

I MUST HAVE
DONE A BETTER
JOB THAN I
REALIZED.









HAHA!



IT'S HIS
SHIELD!
DON'T HIT
THE SHIELD!

I'LL WORK
MY WAY
AROUND IT.



ERGH!

SZRAK!



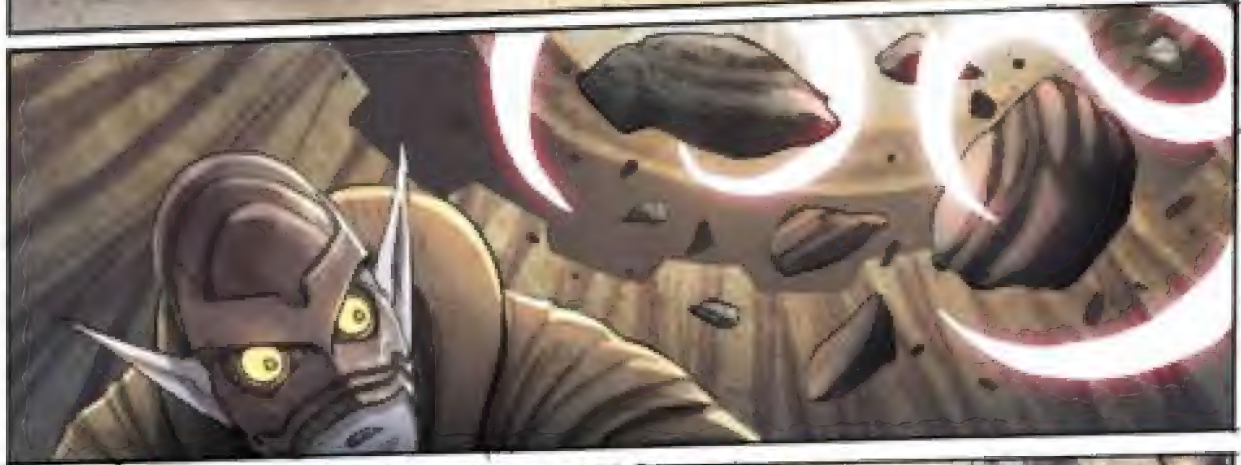


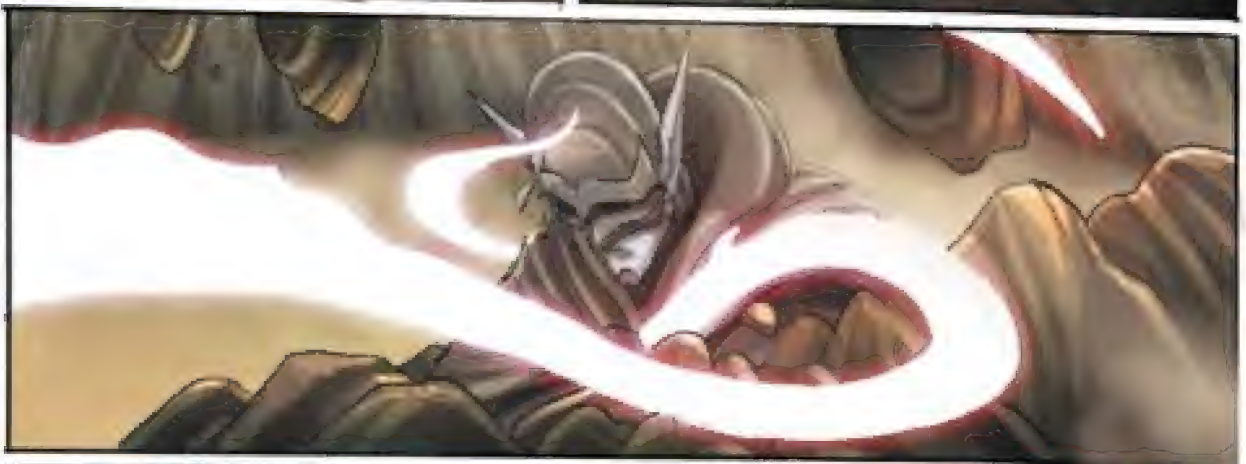














YOU THINK
YOU'RE IN
CONTROL.

BUT YOU'RE
NOT.



THE STONE
HAS ITS OWN
AGENDA.

AND WHEN
IT'S FINISHED
WITH YOU...



...YOU
WILL DIE
LIKE THE
REST.





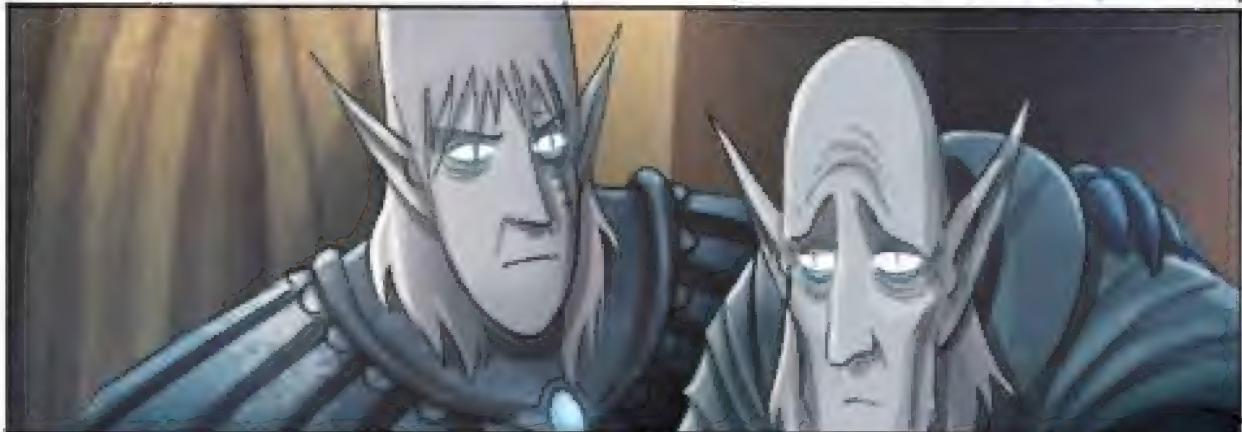




















WE'RE GOING TO
MAKE OURSELVES
SOME POSTCARDS!

END OF BOOK THREE

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LUFEN



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